

TWO NEW SKUNKS OF THE GENUS *CONEPATUS*

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Skunks of the genus *Conepatus* are as a rule far less numerous than are those of the genera *Mephitis* and *Spilogale* which over a wide area, embracing most of Mexico and sections of the southwestern United States, may occur at the same localities. Study of slowly accumulated material assignable to this unrevised genus has resulted in the discovery of two hitherto unrecognized geographic races which are described below.

Conepatus mesoleucus venaticus subsp. nov.

ARIZONA HOG-NOSED SKUNK

Type from Blue River (Casper Ranch), 12 miles south of Blue, Arizona (altitude 5000 feet). No. 205376, ♂ old adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), collected by E. A. Goldman, September 1, 1914. Original number 22459.

Distribution.—Southeastern Arizona and adjacent parts of New Mexico, Sonora and Chihuahua, mainly in Upper and Lower Sonoran Zones.

General characters.—A rather small form most closely allied to *C. m. mearnsi*; general size and color similar; skull decidedly narrower and differing in detail.

Color (type).—Top of head, upper surface of neck, back, and tail above and below, white, the tail with a thin admixture of dark hairs along median portion; face, sides of neck, flanks, fore and hind legs and underparts black as usual in the group.

Skull.—Closely resembling that of *C. m. mearnsi*, but narrower throughout; braincase smaller, less expanded; zygomatics less widely spreading; interorbital region more constricted; interpterygoid fossa narrower; nasals narrower; audital bullæ variable, but usually slightly smaller, less inflated; sagittal crest in adult males very prominent; dentition about as in *mearnsi* (less heavy than in *C. m. mesoleucus*).

Measurements (type).—Total length, 630; tail vertebrae, 230; hind foot, 76. An adult female topotype, 585, 255, 70. Average and extremes of 2 adult males from Graham Mountains, Arizona, 640 (640-640); 255 (250-260); 73.5 (73-74).

Skull (type).—Greatest length, 72.9 (median line); condylobasal length, 70.2; zygomatic breadth, 49.4; interorbital breadth, 18.6; width of braincase at constriction behind zygomatics, 37.4; mastoidal breadth, 42.7; median width of interpterygoid fossa, 6.6; front of canine to back of large upper molar, 22.4; length of upper incisor series at cingula, 11.

Remarks.—Specimens from Diamond Creek and head of Mimbres River, New Mexico, assigned to *C. m. mearnsi* are very variable and indicate intergradation with *C. m. venaticus*. From its geographic neighbor on the south, *C. sonoriensis*, the Arizona form differs markedly in the smaller size of the skull, with relatively longer, narrower nasals and narrower interpterygoid space. The extension of white of upper parts is variable as usual in the species. It usually

forms a broad mantle reaching in some specimens well down along flanks. In some individuals there is a white spot on the throat, and the ears may be whitish.

Specimens examined.—Total number, 22, from the following localities:

ARIZONA: Blue River (type locality), 5; Ash Creek, Graham Mountains, 2; Black River, 1; Fort Huahuaca, 1; Fort Lowell, 1; *Fort Whipple (near Prescott), 1; La Osa, 1; McMillenville, 1; Nantan Plateau, 1; Raspberry Creek, Prieto Plateau, 1; Tucson, 1.

NEW MEXICO: Animas Valley, 1; Dry Creek, 1.

CHIHUAHUA: Colonia Garcia, 2.

SONORA: Santa Cruz, 1; San Jose Mountains, 1.

Conepatus mesoleucus nelsoni subsp. nov.

NELSON'S HOG-NOSED SKUNK

Type from Armeria (near Manzanillo), Colima, Mexico (altitude 200 feet).

No. $\frac{33252}{45257}$, ♂ old adult, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey Collection), collected by E. W. Nelson, March 3, 1892. Original number 2004.

Distribution.—Region of the type locality in Colima and probably adjacent parts of western Mexico, Arid Tropical Zone.

General characters.—Similar to *C. m. mesoleucus*; general size and color about the same; skull narrower, less massive and differing in detail.

Color.—About as in typical *C. m. mesoleucus*, the white dorsal area somewhat variable as in that form. In the type and in a specimen from Hacienda Magdalena, Colima, the white extends entirely across the back near the middle, while in an example from Colima, Colima, the white area is considerably reduced in width.

Skull.—Compared with that of *C. m. mesoleucus* the skull in both sexes is narrower, less massive, with smaller less inflated braincase, and less widely spreading zygomata; interorbital region narrower; sagittal and lambdoid crests in type (old male) high and trenchant; frontal region depressed and dentition rather heavy, much as in *mesoleucus*.

Measurements (type).—Total length, 664; tail vertebræ, 287; hind foot, 88. Average and extremes of 2 adult females from Hacienda Magdalena and Colima, Colima, 593 (602–585); 251 (265–237); 75 (74–76). Skull (type): Greatest length (median line), 78.2; condylobasal length, 74.8; zygomatic breadth, 52; width of braincase at constriction behind zygomata, 39.5; mastoidal breadth, 45.7; median width of interpterygoid fossa, 9; front of canine to back of large upper molar, 25; length of upper incisor series at cingula, 11.5.

Remarks.—*Conepatus mesoleucus nelsoni* is a western tropical form of the species which is typical on the high plateau region of Mexico. The skull differs markedly from those of *C. leuconotus* of tropical eastern Mexico, and *C. sonoriensis* in lesser elongation, and depressed instead of highly arched frontal region.

Specimens examined.—Three, all from the state of Colima, Mexico as follows: Armeria (type locality), 1; Colima, 1; Hacienda Magdalena, 1.

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* Collection of A. B. Howell.